GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1076
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EXCESSIVE USE OF PESTICIDES AND FERTILISERS IN FRUITS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recently made any arrangement for the detection and study on excessive use of pesticides, fertilizers and other harmful elements in fruits and vegetables in the country in consultation with State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the name of the States using excessive pesticides and fertilizers and effect on the production;

(d) the percentage of various harmful elements found in fruits and vegetables during the course of such inspection and study; and

(e) the remedial steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): The Scheme `Monitoring of Pesticide Residues` in agricultural, animal and food commodities at the national level was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2005, as a Central Sector Scheme. An amount of Rs.10 crore has been provided for the scheme, during 2007-08. The objective of the scheme is to collect, collate and analyze data of pesticide residues in agriculture, animal produce and food commodities at the national level. The scheme provides for strengthening the identified pesticide residue testing laboratories and getting the samples of selected commodities analyzed for pesticide residues and other harmful elements.

(c): Use of pesticides and fertilizers are recommended at optimal dosages for higher productivity of crops on the basis of requirements and agro-climatic conditions. States use pesticides and fertilizers depending on the incidence of disease on the crop and agro- climatic conditions. The average consumption of fertilizers in the country was 104.50 Kg/ha. during 2005-06. This level of consumption is not considered to have any ill-effect on the fertility of the land. Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) which includes soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures like farm yard manure, compost, vermicompost green manures and bio- fertilizers for sustainable soil health and productivity.

(d): Vegetable samples collected in Delhi have not been detected with pesticide residues above the tolerance limit. In samples collected in the rest of the country, residues have been detected above tolerance limit in 3.8 % of the samples (1117).

(e): Department of Agriculture & Cooperation follows the policy of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for managing pest problems which is an environment and ecology friendly. It combines cultural, mechanical and biological pest control techniques with minimum dependence on chemical pesticides. Promotion of IPM will reduce the problems of pesticide residues.